

THE ALMA RECORD

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF ALMA, MICHIGAN.

FOREIGN TRADE, FISCAL YEAR 1921

One of the most important matters for our consideration is the trade relations with other countries. That is especially true since the war, when trade relations and conditions are unstable. A report has just been completed which gives some valuable information worthy of our careful consideration and study. By studying these reports we find the following encouraging facts: Imports decreased 43 per cent, exports decreased 25 per cent, the fiscal year 1921 compared with 1920, according to official figures of the Department of Commerce just made public.

An analysis of imports shows that crude materials fell from \$2,141,000,000 in 1920 to \$1,051,000,000 for the year just closed indicating that mill consumption fell off materially during 1921, hence the lessened demand for the raw materials of foreign countries.

Imports of crude foodstuffs and food animals fell from \$622,000,000 to \$452,000,000; of manufactured foodstuffs, from \$891,000,000 to \$842,000,000, or a decline of \$219,000,000 in our purchases of foreign foodstuffs. The Emergency Tariff Act became effective May 27. During May we imported about 362,000,000 worth of foodstuffs, crude and prepared, while in June the total value of these imports was \$40,000,000. The Emergency tariff was designed chiefly to protect the farmers and its effect is reflected in these figures—a 35 per cent reduction for June, compared with May.

Manufactures for further use in manufacturing fell from \$801,000,000 to \$543,000,000, again reflecting the depression in industry. But imports of completed manufactures scored a decrease of but one million dollars, or from \$745,000,000 to \$744,000,000, in value. The pre-war average was under \$450,000,000. The quantity increases will show up bigger because of the enhanced purchasing power of the American dollar.

On the export side of the ledger it will be seen that crude materials decreased from \$1,969,000,000 to \$1,288,000,000, the two years compared. A falling off in sales to other countries, was somewhat balanced off by increased purchases on the part of Germany, which has now developed good running heat in the manufacturing industries. Crude foodstuffs increased from \$626,000,000 to \$979,000,000, being the only group to show an increase over 1920. Manufactured foodstuffs fell off from \$1,514,000,000 to \$779,000,000.

Partly manufactured goods decreased from \$991,000,000 to \$687,000,000, while completed manufactures showed a decrease from \$2,835,000,000 to \$2,643,000,000, which, on the whole, gives a satisfactory showing, since it could not be expected that our exports under this group could long retain their war-time figures.

To sum up, our imports decreased from \$5,238,000,000 in 1920 to \$3,654,000,000 in 1921, while our exports decreased from \$8,109,000,000 to \$5,516,000,000. This includes the miscellaneous group and foreign merchandise exported.

Prior to the war our foreign trade totaled slightly under \$4,300,000,000, of which about 44 per cent consisted of imports and 56 per cent of exports. The year just closed finds that trade totaling \$10,000,000,000 with 55 per cent exports and 35 per cent imports.

HARD TIMES

There seems to be a well settled idea that we are passing through an era of hard times. We all talk about it and long for the opulence of departed days. It is a fact that times are harder now than they were when we were spending the money we borrowed for war purposes, because some of us have awakened to the fact that we must pay interest on what we borrowed and save something to ultimately pay back the principal.

Yes, times are hard, but the other evening the writer, riding along in a tin Lizzie, feeling fairly comfortable and reasonably well fed, just for amusement counted the automobiles parked on each side of Superior street from the bridge west to the Ford Garage, and found the number to be five hundred sixteen, to say nothing of those parked on State and other streets. To be sure, many of them were "Tin Lizzies" like his own, but many were much more elaborate and it was evident all of them were supplied with enough gasoline and grease to make them run. It is a perfectly safe bet our grandfather would be one surprised old boy should he drive into town some evening with his ox team, and look for a hitching post. We venture to say the old gentleman would rub his eyes, and say "Well, I swan, must be everybody's got rich while I've been asleep."

The old gentleman would be so surprised that he would just forget his customary good manners and stare in amazement at the fine clothes, silk dresses, silk hosiery, low necks, high skirts, bear skins, furs, high heels, sharp toes, smart hats and other evidences of "hard times," which greeted him on every hand.

His surprise might even lead him to spend the quarter with which he had intended to buy some crackers and cheese, for a look into the theatre just to see the pictures of nation-wide hard times as they are thrown upon the screen, and he would undoubtedly be shocked at the inequality—some folks have more clothes than they know what to do with and others have scarcely any, but the less they have, the finer they are and the more they cost.

Poor old grandpa, it's pretty hard for him to grasp the idea that we are living in an era of simply awful hard times, because he always had a plenty.

Old "Hi Price" seems to have been having a home brew jag lately. He falls down with a thump somewhere almost every day, and it's awfully hard for him to get up again. Well, home brew always did have a queer effect on some folks, and old "Hi" is no exception.

This is Chautauqua Week. Let's all go and get the benefit from it.

With Our State Contemporaries

THE YOUNG MAN'S MONEY.

Two people cannot live as cheaply as one, but two people frequently do succeed in living on what the man spent before marriage. This has been particularly true since the war, as free spending by unmarried men was an important feature of the recent carnival of extravagance, and it was one of the causes leading to the business recession of 1920.

Wages during that period were usually standardized on the theory of paying a man enough so that he could support a family with two or three children. In a great many cases, an unmarried fellow would get wages established on that basis. That gave him a large surplus and he blew it with astounding rapidity.

A good many young men would wear good clothes while doing dirty work so that their garments quickly got soiled. In a few weeks they would have to have a new suit. And so it went on everything. The money went with amazing speed into joy rides and treats and sport.

The majority of unmarried men saved little through this harvest time. It was an opportunity that knocked just once, and will not return. However, any fellow who has a steady job can usually earn more than he needs for himself even now.

A young man with foresight and sense will use thrift and some degree of self-denial, and save such of his earnings as are in excess of reasonable expenses. This gives him a business start, safeguards him against periods of depression, makes it possible to accept favorable openings, and opens up the chance of comfortable family life.

Also, if most young men could show this degree of sense, a new source of savings would be created that would be a big factor in utilizing and developing the nation's resources. Our schools teach the young folks a lot, but they have not succeeded in teaching them thrift.—St. Johns News.

LOSES ANOTHER ARGUMENT

After all the former German emperor seems to possess traits which indicate he is a human being. Just as it is with the rest of us he does not like to pay taxes, and when the municipality of Doorn, his latest place of residence, put in a bill for five thousand guilders poll tax, the Hohenzollern certainly did put up a protest. He still holds to his divine rights idea, and conceives one of them to be that he is above and beyond taxation.

Yet he found himself obliged to come down to the common level of argument on the question, and intimidated he did not establish himself in Doorn of his own free will; in fact he as good as said he was not in Holland because he wanted to be there, and therefore it was inequitable to tax him for the privilege of refuge. In retort, the stout burghers told him plainly enough he sought such refuge; that if he did not like Doorn they certainly would interpose no obstacles to his leaving it, and the sooner the better.

But, as he was there, and as their taxation laws applied to all residents equally, he must pay the tax. He paid. Wilhelm thus loses another argument; and it does almost seem that rather than manifesting peevishness about the matter, the man ought to be glad enough to find himself in position of financial ability to pay taxes; to say nothing of being alive instead of dangling at the end of a noose, as many infinitely lesser criminals than he have dangled.—Saginaw News-Courier.

WHITE COLLAR JOBS

Said a prominent business man, head of one of the country's greatest industries, recently, "The trouble with the country today is that all the young men are looking for 'white collar jobs'; they do not want to get their hands soiled." Did he overstate the case? Look around among your acquaintances—how many of the young men are ready to take a job that requires hard, continuous labor, and necessitates getting into the dirt and grime?

Everyone will admit that it is more pleasant to sit in a cool place, clothed in neat raiment, than to toil in the sun; it is more pleasant to sit in the

shade of the tree than climb to the top—but one can never get the apple at the top by lying on the ground underneath. "The white collar jobs" are not the jobs that bring the returns; they are held by the fellow who has not the ambition to get to the top. Promotions are made from the ranks of those who know the working parts—not mere recorders of figures. The young man who expects to go ahead must learn that a white collar is mighty fine after business hours, and that it is nice when he reaches the point of sitting in the seat of the boss, but if he wishes to reach that seat, remember that soiled hands and overalls are badges of honor during working hours.—St. Louis Leader.

A CHANCE FOR NATIONAL ECONOMY

President Harding is urging government economy, and business and financial leaders are telling the public to stop waste, and to work and save in order to restore sound conditions. It could make a good beginning by stopping the preventable fire waste of the country, which amounted to over \$500,000,000 last year, or approximately \$1,370,000 a day. Much is expected from the application of the budget system to national expenditures, but the American people could save more than it will save for them if they will only be reasonably careful about fire.

Carelessness and ignorance normally figure as the chief causes of our fires, but there is also the mistaken belief of many that when property is insured against fire the insurance companies are the only ones to worry if it burns. As a matter of fact, insurance costs are so closely interwoven with our social and economic fabric that we are all affected by the fire waste.

The careless or ignorant citizen responsible for a fire taxes himself as well as his fellows. When this truth becomes recognized by a majority of the American public, then will our fire waste begin to decrease.—Clinton County Republican.

THE WHOLE WORLD ACCEPTS

The alacrity with which the nations accepted the proposal of President Harding for a general conference on disarmament reminds one of the hired man answering the dinner bell on a hot summer day. It looks as if they were merely waiting for some one to take the lead. They follow as readily as a crowd of boys bound for the "Old Swimming Hole." And they one and all express full accord with the principles embodied in the suggestion.

There have been timid souls who believed that the most that could be hoped for would be some sort of an agreement on naval construction covering the next five years, but the truth is that the world has grown very weary of the great armaments they have been carrying and are ready to cast the burden aside, once and for all time. No other construction can be placed on the unanimous reaction to the President's proposal.—St. Louis Leader.

AUTOMOBILE HEADLIGHTS

Dazzling automobile headlights are one of the frequent causes of accidents. No man can see with these great glares coming up and filling his eyes. A number of states are dealing with this matter, and codes are being adopted specifying what constitutes a legal light.

A car with a dazzling light is a public nuisance, therefore no car should be permitted to leave any factory until it has a lens that satisfies a reasonable standard.

If each state simply tries to regulate the headlights after the cars are bought, a lot of illegal lenses will slip through, as the result of failure to make complaints and indifference of police officers in many places. It would be far simpler and more effective to deal with this cause at the factory source.—St. Johns News.

Sunday is the most disagreeable and dangerous day to drive an automobile. The trunk line and improved roads are full of cars and dust and danger go hand-in-hand. This is especially true on main roads leading out of and between the larger cities, as the Sunday list of automobile accidents show. Sunday is made a holiday by increasing numbers, more like a European continental Sunday, and there are a great many people on the road.—Clinton County Republican.

Record Directory FOR READY REFERENCE

Preserve This and Then You'll Know

President and Congress
President, Warren G. Harding, Ohio, salary \$75,000, with advances for traveling expenses up to \$25,000 extra; and \$100,000 more for clerk hire and White House expenses—\$200,000 in all. Postmaster-General, Vice-President, Calvin Coolidge, Mass., salary \$12,000. President pro tem of senate, Albert B. Candler, Iowa, salary \$12,000. Speaker of House, Frederick H. Gillett of Mass., salary \$12,000. The 96 Senators and 435 Representatives of 6th congress receive \$7,500 salary each, with mileage rate at 20 cents a mile each way, each session, figured on distance between their homes and Washington; also \$125 extra for stationery, newspapers, etc. Each is also allowed \$4,500 a year for clerk hire. Ratio of representation, one member to each 211,847 population.
Party Division in 6th Congress: House 201 Reps., 133 Dems., 1 Soc. Senate 63 Reps., 37 Dems.
U. S. Senators—Chas. E. Townsend, Truman H. Newberry.
Representative in Congress—Joseph W. Fordney.

The Cabinet
Advanced in order of presidential succession: Sec'y State, Charles E. Hughes, N. Y.; Treasury, Andrew W. Mellon, Pa.; War, John W. Weeks, Mass.; Atty-Gen., Harry H. Baker, N. Y.; Postmaster-General, Wm. H. Hays, Ind.; Sec'y Navy, Edwin Denney, Mich.; Interior, Albert B. Fall, N. Mex.; Agriculture, Henry C. Wallace, Iowa; Commerce, Herbert C. Hoover, Calif.; Labor, James J. Davis, Pa. Salary of each \$12,000.

The Supreme Court
Chief Justice, William Howard Taft, salary \$15,000. Associate Justices, salary \$14,500 each: Jos. McKenna, Calif. (Ret.); Oliver W. Holmes, Mass. (Ret.); Wm. E. Day, Ohio (Ret.); Willis VanDevanter, Wyo. (Ret.); Mahlon Pitney, N. J. (Ret.); James McReynolds, Tenn. (Dem.); Louis D. Brandeis, Mass. (Dem.); John H. Clarke, Ohio (Dem.).

Michigan Government
Governor, Alex. J. Groesbeck, salary \$7,000; Lieut. Gov., Thomas Read, salary \$5,000; Secretary of State, Charles J. Deland, salary \$2,500.00; State Treas., Frank E. Goss, salary \$2,500.00; Auditor Gen., Orin M. Fuller, salary \$2,500.00; Attorney Gen., Martin Wiley, salary \$2,000.00; Com. of Public Lands, Thomas E. Johnson, salary \$4,000.00; State Highway Com., Frank F. Rogers, salary \$7,000.00; Senator of District, Anson Amos, salary \$800.00; Representative of District, David G. Leake, salary \$800.00; Supreme Court Justice, salary \$7,000.00; Joseph B. Moore, Joseph H. Stone, Howard W. Whitcomb, John W. Stone, Geo. M. Clark, John E. Bird, Nelson Sharp.

County Officers
Circuit Judge, Edward J. Mincey, salary \$35,000.00; Judge of Probate, James L. Kress, salary \$24,000.00; Sheriff, A. T. Willert, salary \$2,000.00; Clerk, Bernice Ches, salary \$1,500.00; Treas., Sidney Eddy, salary \$1,500.00; Pros. Atty., O. L. Smith, salary \$2,200.00; Register of Deeds, Chas. Hanson, salary \$2,000.00; School Com., Howard Putney, salary \$1,000.00; Circuit Court Com., Archie McNell, Wm. A. Bahler, Jas. Train, Com. of Public Lands, salary \$1,500.00; Coroners, W. E. Ludwig, Dr. Hall, fees.

City Government
Mayor, Chas. R. Murphy, salary \$3,000.00; City Commissioners, John C. Clark, Fred Glaze, A. J. Archer, Philip Cropper, salary \$2,000.00; City Manager, Wm. E. Reynolds, salary \$5,000.00; City Clerk, Francis C. Hayward, salary \$2,000.00; City Treasurer, D. W. Adams, salary \$1,800.00; City Attorney, Wm. A. Bahler, salary \$1,200.00; Health Officer, Dr. John N. Day, salary \$1,000.00; Chief of Police, James R. Campbell, salary \$175,000.00; Supervisors, 1st ward, John E. Jahn, 2nd ward, Nicholas R. Stahl, 3rd ward, Albert P. Cook, 4th ward, Jacob D. Helman, salary \$3.00 per day on actual time.

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Hamburger steak, lb	17c	EXTRA SPECIALS	
Corned beef, boneless lb	20c	Sardines in oil, can	7c
Pork steak, lb	18c	Kansas Brand Flour	
Chops, lb	30c	(Fancy Patent), sack	\$1.25
Sausage, lb	18c	Jap Rose Soap 2 for	15c
Pork in pickle, lb	12-17c	Cream corn starch, pkg	10c
Home rendered lard, lb	15c	Poaches in syrup, 2 1/2 can	20c
Bacon, home cured, in the chunk, lb	25c	Fruit preserves, 14 oz. jar	15c
Fresh pork chops, lb	9c	Prunes, medium size, 2 lbs	25c
Smoked ham butts, 3-5 lbs. per lb	10-15c	Raisins, lb pkg.	25c
Veal for stewing, good quality, lb	10c-15c	Tea, best quality, lb	65c
Genuine spring lamb, chops, roasts and stews		Coffee, none better, lb	42c
Yearling fowls, lb	30c	Melons and cantaloupes on ice	
		Pickles in bulk, sweet, sour and dill.	
		Sugar, per cwt.	\$6.75

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